

When I was seven years old I got a telescope for Christmas, and had an extremely hard time finding anything. After tinkering with the magnification, I finally focused on a star. That telescope taught me the beginnings of a skill that I would use for the rest of my life, problem solving. My primary career aspiration is to use a background in science and engineering to solve problems, in order to make it a better place. Receiving the Dr. William W.L. "Bill" Taylor Memorial Science Scholarship will allow me to focus on being the best student possible and ultimately create unique solutions to some of this world's toughest problems.

There are multiple events and programs that have contributed to my deep desire to pursue a career in the STEM field. The scholarship I received to attend *Space Camp* in 2010 and 2011 took my involvement in science and engineering from a keen interest, to a passion. In fact, it was at *Space Camp* that I was introduced to computer science for the first time. I can remember the programmable robot module vividly. While advancing through the multiple stages I got stuck and remember thinking to myself, "I know I can figure this out." Little did I know that a few years later I would be pursuing a bachelor's degree in computer science and repeating that same "can do" mantra over and over in my head.

Although I am extremely passionate about the STEM fields, my passion is not limited to personal enjoyment, I also love sharing my enthusiasm with others. As an aspiring innovator, I feel it is my responsibility to spread the word about STEM to younger students. A lot of students become bored with science and math classes because they cannot connect with class lessons or see practical applications in everyday life. Therefore, whenever I encourage middle or high school students to pursue careers in STEM, I use relevant and authentic examples. I have the opportunity to provide such encouragement when I volunteer as an assistant robotics coach at the NASA Goddard space center chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers.

Whether I am helping students learning improve the drivetrain of a mechanical robot, writing code, or still looking at stars with my telescope, I love to learn and I love to create. This is a passion that I will pursue with vehemence for the rest of my life. If I am fortunate to be awarded the this scholarship, I will definitely contribute to the Inspire Project mission by bringing my persistence and willingness to learn more effective ways to use computer based technologies to empower to people maximize their potential.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

College of Engineering, Architecture
and Computer Sciences
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

December 18, 2013

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am please to write this letter on the behalf of Mr. Alston Clark. Alston is a fine young man with a keenness to learn and an innovative mind. I had the pleasure of having him as one of the participant in the Smart Light Summer Program for High School Students at Howard University this summer. It was a six weeks program that was geared toward giving high school students the opportunity to learn and be exposure to engineering at a college level.

We had several professors who worked very closely with the participants in teaching the basics of engineering. He received training on Cisco programming, research electrical engineering topics and wrote his findings. Moreover, Alston was also required to do group projects, write complete and comprehensive reports and give presentations. Alston worked along side his fellow team mates and the mentors to get each assignment done. Alston is a team player and a true leader he would take the leadership role in his group by helping his team mates to ensure that they submit high quality assignments and presentations. At end of the program they were given a final group project. Alston and his group did an outstanding job in not only explaining what the project was about, but they were also able to demonstrate how it worked. And when it was his time to speak, Alston was professional, composed, and eloquent. Another requirement is that each participant had to submit a final report before receiving a certification of completion, and Alston's report was among one of the best in the program.

In addition, they were given the opportunity to work with engineering lab components and to do hands assignment by putting together traffic light that work; assemble a radio that work, work with solderless breadboard and create a website. There were some trails and errors, but they did not give up until they got the desired result. I realized from the beginning of the program that Alston was more advanced than the other participants. He had already participated in many statewide competitions where won awards and notable recognitions. He has expressed a keen interest in engineering and plans to pursue his engineering degree after high school. He continues to further his education by taking engineering courses at Howard University for the Fall 2013 semester. I am truly pleased with his performance and seeing his interest and enthusiasm to learn more is rewarding. I know that the materials that he has learned in the program will only help to enhance his abilities and will be an asset to him as he pursues his future endeavors. Alston has already demonstrated that he has the abilities to become an excellent engineer.

I give Mr. Clark my highest recommendation. Please contact me if further information is needed at 202-806-6585 or by email at mchouikha@howard.edu.

2300 6th Street, NW, Room 1022
Washington, DC 20059



Telephone 202 806 6585
Facsimile 202 332 3152
www.howard.edu

Sincerely,



Mohamed F. Chouikha, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering



71 "O" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Tel: (202) 797-0701
Fax: (202) 797-1867
Web: www.some.org

To whom it may concern,

I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing Alston Clark for the past three years as a volunteer at So Others Might Eat (SOME). His volunteer service has helped many people at SOME, an interfaith, community-based organization that exists to help the poor and homeless of Washington, DC. Not only is he an excellent volunteer, but he also brings a charismatic quality that makes the environment even more productive and pleasant.

Alston has assisted SOME in several capacities such as organizing the children's clothes closet, helping in the kitchen, setting tables for breakfast and lunch, and participating in seasonal Thanksgiving and Christmas campaigns. I am impressed with the mature and responsible manner in which he approaches each duty. He works well with the clients who need our services and treats them with kindness and respect. The fact that he cares about his community is evident in his desire to serve.

Alston comes from a supportive family and has an impressive work ethic. He will be an asset to your program and I highly recommend him for your *scholarship*.

Respectfully,

Greg Chudy
Non-Monetary Donations Coordinator
202-797-8806 x2104
So Others Might Eat (SOME)
71 "O" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
www.some.org
United Way #8189
CFC#74405

Restoring Hope & Dignity One Person at a Time

SOME is an interfaith, community-based organization established to help the poor and homeless of our nation's capital.
SOME is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax-deductible. Federal ID #23-7098123.
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@02731903 Alston E. Clark
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Transcript Data

STUDENT INFORMATION

Curriculum Information

Current Program

College: College of Engrg Arch Comp Sci

Major and Department: Systems and Computer Science,
Systems and Computer Science

***Transcript type:WEB is NOT Official ***

DEGREES AWARDED

Sought: B.S. in Syst. and
Computer Sci

Degree Date:

Curriculum Information

Primary Degree

Major: Systems and Computer Science

INSTITUTION CREDIT [-Top-](#)

Term: Fall 2014

College: College of Engrg Arch Comp Sci

Major: Systems and Computer Science

Student Type: First Time in College

Academic Standing: Good Standing

Subj ect	Cou rse	Cam pus	Lev el	Title	Grad e	Credi t Hour s	Quali ty Point s	Start and End Dates	CEU R Contact Hours
AFR O	005	Main	UG	Intro Afro-American Studies I	A	3.000	12.00		
BIOL	101	Main	UG	General Biology Lec/ Lab	B	4.000	12.00		
EGP P	101	Main	UG	Intro-Engineering (SYCS)	A	2.000	8.00		
MAT H	007	Main	UG	Precalculus	A	4.000	16.00		
SYC S	100	Main	UG	Intro to Systems and Comp Sci	A	2.000	8.00		
				Attempt Hours	Pass ed Hour s	Earne d Hour s	GPA Hour s	Quality Points	GPA
Current Term:				15.000	15.00 0	15.00 0	15.00 0	56.00	3.73
Cumulative:				15.000	15.00 0	15.00 0	15.00 0	56.00	3.73

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TRANSCRIPT TOTALS (UNDERGRADUATE) [-Top-](#)

	Attempt Hours	Passed Hours	Earne d Hours	GPA Hours	Qualit y Points	GPA
Total Institution:	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	56.00	3.73

Total Transfer:	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.00	0.00
Overall:	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	56.00	3.73

Unofficial Transcript

COURSES IN PROGRESS [-Top-](#)

Term: Spring 2015

College: College of Engrg Arch Comp Sci

Major: Systems and Computer Science

Student Type: Continuing

Subject	Course	Campus	Level	Title	Credit Hours	Start and End Dates
EGPP	493	Main	UG	Bison Startup	3.000	
MAT H	156	Main	UG	Calculus I	4.000	
SLMC	101	Main	UG	Principles of Speech	3.000	
SYCS	135	Main	UG	Computer Science I	4.000	
SYCS	211	Main	UG	Unix Lab	1.000	

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